

PATENT – Docket Number: 06214 USA

In the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0002] on page 1, lines 8-12 with the following amended paragraph:

The term, "column", as used herein, means a distillation or fractionation column or zone, *i.e.*, a column or zone wherein liquid and vapor phases are countercurrently contacted to effect separation of a fluid mixture, such as by contacting of the vapor and liquid phases on packing elements ~~or on a series of vertically-spaced trays or plates mounted within the column.~~

Please replace paragraph [0007] on page 2, lines 12-18 with the following amended paragraph:

Various packings ~~or trays~~ may be used to bring the liquid and gaseous phases of the mixture into contact to accomplish mass transfer between the phases. The use of packing for distillation is standard practice and has many advantages where pressure drop is important. However, packed column performance is very dependent on creating and maintaining a balance between the downward flow of liquid and the upward flow of vapor locally in the packing. The distribution of the liquid and the vapor within the packing is influenced by the initial presentation of these fluids to the packing.